

# NASA TECH BRIEF



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## An Improvement in Blackbody Cavity Design

### The problem:

In the construction of conventional conical blackbody cavities, machining and coating the interior result in an unavoidable imperfection—a fillet at the apex of the cone. This fillet acts both as a nonuniformity in the radiance source and as a reflector of energy from the radiometer, causing performance degradation, particularly when the cavity is used with a warm radiometer.

### The solution:

Move the apex of the cone from direct view of the radiometer.

### How it's done:

By setting the axis of the conical cavity at an angle to the axis of observation, the imperfection at the apex of the cone is removed from the direct observation area of the radiometer and no longer behaves as a nonuniformity in the blackbody.

### Note:

The following documentation may be obtained from:

National Technical Information Service  
Springfield, Virginia 22151  
Single document price \$3.00  
(or microfiche \$0.65)

### Reference:

NASA-CR-1583, Emittance Measurement Study

### Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA

Source: R. M. Schmidt of  
Honeywell, Inc.  
under contract to  
Langley Research Center  
(LAR-10292)

Category 03